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The Abati and >umati “Taa” among Addition and Substitution and Compensation in Light of its Structure and Functional Value

*Moneer T. Shatanawi**

ABSTRACT

Linguists have dwelled on investigating the “Taa” in Yaa abati (of father) and Yaa >umati (of mother). They had different perspectives and opinions. Some ascribed this to Saybawyh that it is a substitute for the first person possessive adjective yaa. Others said that it's a replacement of the Yaa. Some others said its origin is the stopping Haa. Some other linguists ascribe that to the phenomena of Tarkheem and elegy.

The researcher has intended to discuss linguists' opinions –especially Saybawyh– showing their positive and negative remarks through three dimensions:

Complexity (ambiguity) of this Taa, linguists opinions, and its main specialization in vocative category only. The researcher concluded that this is the feminine Taa due to some indications of the comparative linguistic lesson: it is not only ignored in the pronunciation of the two structures because of the ellipse, but there are creation constructive considerations in the structure of the dual and some other indicative values as well as some other stylistic meanings in vocative category in particular which forbid the annexation of Taa due to the aforementioned factors. The researcher, also, disagreed with those who think that it's a substitute for first person possessive adjective Yaa or that it's a substitute of the stopping “Haa” or either that which is due to the phenomena of Tarkeem or elegy.

The researcher showed that what has been ascribed to Saybawyh in this regard was not accurate. In his theory, it is a replacement of the Yaa. Rather, it's the feminine Taa for the function of replacement.

Nonetheless, taking for granted that it is mainly based on replacement doesn't suffice in showing the fact of this Taa and explain its existence in these two particular abovementioned words only, not any others, and only in vocative category.

KEYWORDS: Taa, abati, >umati, addition, substitution, compensation.

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